



RULES OF THE ROAD

This chapter highlights key traffic laws. To a certain extent, safe driving principles related to the laws are also discussed here, however a more complete discussion of driving techniques will be found in Chapter 11.

Even on a short trip, you may be faced with many dangerous driving conditions. Statistics show that half of all vehicle crashes occur within 25 miles of home.

The rules of the road are those laws, regulations and practices that provide safe and efficient vehicle movement on the roadways. This includes such things as signaling, turning, passing and stopping.



Learn the traffic rules and follow them; be willing to yield to other drivers to avoid a crash; always watch carefully for advance warning and information signs; and be a courteous driver. This will help you avoid snap decisions.

Obeying Officers

You must obey traffic officers at all times. There will be times when one will instruct you to do something that ordinarily would be a violation of traffic regulations. The officer will do this only in case of an emergency when it is the only way to keep traffic flowing smoothly and safely. A common example: A police officer holding up traffic at a green light and permitting a funeral procession to continue through a red light.

In the United States, Canada, and most other countries, right hand traffic is the rule. This means we drive on the right side of the road, and bear right when going around traffic circles, roundabouts or town squares.

Coasting Prohibited

The driver of any motor vehicle traveling on a downgrade shall not coast with the transmission of the vehicle in neutral. Vehicles shall not coast with the clutch disengaged.

Use Of Headlights

- **Required Night Use:** Your car headlights must be turned on between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.
- **Dimming of Headlights Required:** When your vehicle's high beam headlights are on, you must dim or lower the beam when an oncoming vehicle is within 500 feet (approximately the distance of one city block) or when you are following another vehicle within 500 feet. Dimming headlights when following other vehicles is a practical

safety step. The glare from your headlights in a rearview mirror can blind another driver.

- **Special Daylight / Inclement Weather Uses:** Tennessee law requires that headlights must be turned on.
 1. at any other time when daylight is not good enough for you to see persons or vehicles clearly at a distance of 200 feet ahead, and
 2. when rain, mist, snow, or other precipitation requires constant use of windshield wipers.

Headlights turned on during daylight hours will make your vehicle more visible to oncoming vehicles and pedestrians. Use headlights when driving at dusk. Even if you can see clearly, headlights help other drivers see you as much as they help you see them.

Get into the habit of turning your headlights on when you use your windshield wipers. And don't forget using headlights when wipers are needed is not just a good safety precaution — it's Tennessee law!

- **Limited Use of Parking Lights or Auxiliary-Fog Lights:** The following procedures should be followed when using these type of lights -
 1. The law requires a vehicle stopped or parked on a road or shoulder to have parking lights on when limited visibility conditions exist.
 2. Do not drive a vehicle with only the parking lights on when driving at night or in inclement weather. The small size of parking lights may cause other drivers to think your vehicle is farther away than it actually is. Use of parking lights alone when there is limited visibility is not only unsafe it is against the law.
 3. It is also illegal to have auxiliary lights or fog lights on by themselves or on at times when you are required to dim your headlights. These very bright lights make it difficult for oncoming drivers to see and the glare may reflect blindingly in the rearview mirror of vehicles you are following.

Daytime Running Lights - Some newer vehicles have headlights that are on anytime the vehicle is running. These lights make it easier for others to see the vehicle, even in daylight, thereby reducing the likelihood of collisions. However, they are not meant to replace the use of headlights as required by law (night driving, inclement weather, etc.).

Littering

Throwing papers, bottles, cans, or disposing of other material from vehicles are all forms of littering. Littering is not only an offense against state law, with maximum fine of up to \$500 and ten (10) days in jail. Littering is also an offense against common decency — something no respectable person would do.

Slow-Moving Vehicles

It is against the law for you to drive slower than the posted minimum speed under normal driving conditions. You may drive more slowly than the minimum speed if you are driving in bad weather, heavy traffic or on a bad road. If there is no posted minimum speed, it is still against the law for you to drive so slowly that you block traffic.

You are considered to be driving a SLOW-MOVING VEHICLE if you are traveling at a rate of speed that is ten (10) miles per hour or more below the lawful maximum speed. Whether you are operating a passenger vehicle or a commercial vehicle, if five (5) or more vehicles are lined up behind you, the law requires you to turn or pull off the roadway as soon as you can do so safely. Slow drivers who block other traffic cause many accidents. Remember, slower is not always safer.

Funeral Procession

In Tennessee it is a common and accepted practice for oncoming traffic to pull to the side of the roadway as a sign of respect when meeting a funeral procession.

Tennessee law instructs the following:

- Vehicles following a funeral procession on a two-lane highway may not attempt to pass such procession; and
- No operator of a vehicle shall drive between vehicles in a properly identified funeral procession except when directed to do so by a traffic officer.

The Basic Speed Rule

The speed at which you drive determines how much time you have to act or react and how long it takes to stop. The higher the speed you are traveling, the less time you have to spot hazards, judge the speed of other traffic and react to avoid the mistakes of other drivers.

The Basic Speed Rule (B.S.R.) is not a Tennessee law but it is a general safety principle. The B.S.R. does not set an exact speed limit; instead it teaches that the speed you may drive is limited by the current conditions. For example, the posted speed limit is 65 M.P.H., but if you are driving at night on a two-lane state highway, it's raining, or it's foggy, 65 M.P.H. is **TOO** fast for those conditions.

To obey the B.S.R., you need to think about your speed in relation to other traffic (including pedestrians and bicycles), the surface and width of the road, hazards at intersections, weather, visibility and any other conditions that could affect safety.

Principles of the Basic Speed rule

1. Your speed must be **careful and prudent** (using skill and good judgment).
2. Your speed must be **reasonable and proper**, not too fast and not too slow, for any conditions including:
 - Amount of Traffic - how many cars on the road
 - Speed of Traffic - how fast or slow it's moving
 - Whether pedestrians are present - *especially children in school zones or neighborhoods*

- Surface of the road - rough or smooth, paved, gravel, etc.
 - Width of the road - 1-lane, 2-lane, 4-lane
 - Structure of the road - straight, curving, bridges, narrow shoulders, etc.
 - Visibility - how far ahead you can see clearly
 - Weather conditions - rain, snow, ice, fog, etc.
 - Your own driving ability
3. You must not drive so slowly that you block, hinder, or interfere with other vehicles moving at normal speeds.
 4. Your speed must be adjusted to conditions so you can stop within a clear distance ahead.

If you drive at a speed that is unsafe for existing conditions in any area, even if you are driving slower than a designated or posted speed or a maximum limit, you are violating the basic rule.

Suppose you are driving in a line of downtown traffic and the car ahead of you stops suddenly. If you can't stop in time to avoid hitting that car from behind, you are either breaking the "B.S.R." - even if you were driving within the posted speed limit - or you are following too closely.

TRAVELER'S NOTE: *Even though the B.S.R. is not a part of Tennessee law, you should be aware that many states have incorporated the principles of the B.S.R. into their actual state laws. Be extra careful when traveling in other states as you might find yourself receiving a "speeding" ticket if you violate the principles of the B.S.R. (i.e. driving too fast for conditions) even when you weren't over the posted limit.*



TENNESSEE SPEED LAWS

Speed is a major contributing factor causing fatal accidents in Tennessee. It is closely followed by failure to yield right-of-way and driving left of the centerline.

Unless otherwise posted the speed limit on primary and secondary state and federal highway is 55 M.P.H.

When driving, you should adjust your speed to flow along with the speed at which other traffic is moving - provided the other traffic is traveling within the posted speed limit provided under Tennessee law! Studies have shown there is more chance of an accident when the difference increases above or below the average. Slow drivers are as likely to become involved in accidents as speeders. If most of the cars are traveling between 50 and 55 miles per hour, you are least likely to have an accident if you stay with that speed range.

INTERSTATE SPEED LIMITS: The maximum speed set by Tennessee law for interstate highways is 70 M.P.H. However this speed does not apply to ALL sections of the interstate highway and may be set as low as 55 M.P.H. in

some larger urban areas where there is more traffic congestion. The maximum limit should be driven only in ideal driving conditions and you must reduce your speed when conditions require it. For example, you should reduce your speed for curves and when the roadway is slippery (during rain, snow, icy conditions), or when it is foggy and difficult to see clearly down the road.



Rural - 70 M.P.H. is the speed that is posted on most of the rural sections of Tennessee interstate highways.



Urban - In the more congested urban or metropolitan areas of Tennessee interstates the limit is typically 55 M.P.H.

NOTE: It is unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle less than **55 m.p.h. in the left most lane** of any Interstate highway; unless traffic congestion and flow prevent safe driving at such speed. Also on the Interstates the minimum speed limit **in the right lane(s) is 45 M.P.H.** and under normal driving conditions all vehicles must travel at least this fast so they are not a hazard to other drivers. If the minimum posted speed limit is too fast for you, you should use another road.

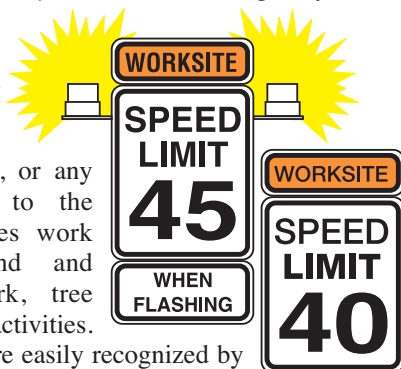


Watch for speed limit changes! The state, counties and municipalities each have the authority to set speed limits for the roadways/highways under their control. Therefore you could see some sections of Interstate within some city limits set at 60 or 65 m.p.h.

Also on the secondary streets and highways these limits will change according to certain zones. Some residential roads or city streets may have limits as low as 25 or 35 M.P.H. at all times. Watch carefully and obey speed limit signs in business, residential, and school zones.

Speeding in School Zones: Speed limits in all school zones are regulated when children are going to or from the school or during a school recess hour. **Exceeding the school zone speed limit is by law considered to be reckless driving.** Penalty includes an **automatic 6 points** added to your driving record, which in turn automatically results in an advisory letter sent to you.

Speeding in Highway Work Zones: Highway work zones are those portions of a street or highway where construction, maintenance or utility work is being done to the road, its shoulders, or any other items related to the roadway. This includes work such as underground and overhead utility work, tree trimming, and survey activities. Highway work zones are easily recognized by



the presence of orange signing and other orange traffic control devices, flashing lights on equipment, and workers dressed in highly visible clothing.

Highway workers are trained on how to set up safe zones with directional traffic signs and devices. Motorists and pedestrians are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention, and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing crashes while driving through highway work zones.

TENNESSEE LAW MANDATES A MINIMUM FINE OF \$250 DOLLARS AND UP TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$500 DOLLARS FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SPEED LIMIT POSTED IN ACTIVE WORK ZONES.

Each year nearly a thousand people are killed and thousands are injured as a result of crashes in highway work zones across the nation. Some of these are highway workers, flaggers, or law enforcement officials. However, drivers, passengers, and pedestrians suffer over 80% of these fatalities and injuries. Many of these work zone crashes are preventable.



State figures for 2000 indicate that, 22 people died 1,379 were injured and there were another 2,576 cases of property damage in work zone accidents in Tennessee. Nationwide in 2001 nearly one thousand (962) people lost their lives in work zone accidents.

BRAKING, FOLLOWING AND STOPPING DISTANCES

Just as important as being aware of speed limits and the effects of speeding, drivers must know and understand the safe and proper braking procedures for vehicles. Along with this come the principles of allowing adequate following distances or "safety cushion" around your vehicle and the laws of required stops (signs, signals, railroad crossings, school bus, etc.).

1. BRAKING: You will encounter numerous driving situations, such as speed zone changes and merging traffic, that will require you to know proper braking techniques.

You should apply your brakes slowly and evenly by applying gradual pressure. Start braking early as a signal to the cars behind you. If you brake too strong or quickly, you could skid and lose control of your vehicle. You also



make it harder for drivers behind you to stop without hitting your vehicle. As a general rule, if the car starts to skid, take your foot off the brake and turn the steering wheel in the direction of the skid; if you can do so without running off the road, hitting something, or steering into oncoming traffic.

- With a standard transmission, you can use your gearshift to slow down when you're approaching a stop sign or signal. First, flash your brake lights to signal any cars behind you, then shift down to a lower gear.
- Many of today's cars are equipped with anti-lock braking systems (ABS), however few drivers know how to use them properly. *Read the instructions in your car's owner's manual to learn the safe and proper operation of ABS. Look for additional tips on ABS in Chapter 11 of this manual.*

A general overview of ABS braking procedures includes:

- When slowing or stopping apply **firm, steady pressure to the brake pedal.** (*Never pump the pedal with ABS*)
- If you are braking to avoid an emergency or accident **gradually steer the car** around any obstacles. (*ABS was designed to prevent vehicles from locking wheels and to allow drivers to steer when skidding.*)
- **Release pressure on the brake pedal.** (*Do not release the steady pressure off the brake pedal until you have slowed to the speed you desire or stopped, otherwise you will disengage the ABS.*)
- **Resume driving normally.**

Regardless of the type of brake system your vehicle is equipped with you need to always be prepared to brake unexpectedly. There are some areas where drivers should be especially aware of this need including:

- When driving next to parked cars
- When approaching any type of intersection
- When approaching traffic signals and crosswalks
- When driving in a school zone or residential area
- When seeing brake lights of other cars
- When driving in heavy, slow moving traffic

Drivers should be able to distinguish situations, like those above, when the brake needs to be covered in preparation for use. "Covering the brake" means the driver's foot needs to be hovering over the brake or between the brake and gas pedals for quicker response time. You should not confuse this practice with "riding the brake." (Keeping your foot resting or slightly pressed down on the brake) Riding the brake not only adds much wear and tear on your vehicle brake system, but it also gives other drivers the false impression that a stop is imminent. *However, covering the brake is often prudent and a safe driving practice, riding the brake is not a safe practice.*

2. FOLLOWING DISTANCES: Obeying the speed limit laws and knowing proper braking procedures must be accompanied by allowing for a reasonable and safe following distance between your car and other vehicles. This section will discuss principles that you can use to assist in determining safe following distances.



Tennessee law states: *"The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicles and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway."*

When another driver makes a mistake, you need time to react. Give yourself this time by keeping a "space cushion" around your vehicle. This space cushion will give you room to brake or maneuver to avoid hazards when needed. Good drivers keep this safe following distance or space cushion to have a better view of the road. The more space you allow between your car and the car ahead, the more time you will have to see and anticipate traffic hazards, or accidents down the road.

Many drivers don't see as well as they should because they follow too closely (tailgating), and the vehicle ahead of them blocks their view of traffic and road conditions. Rear-end crashes are very common and most of these crashes are caused by drivers who are "tailgating".

Two Second Rule: Nationally, safety agencies and driver education programs have tried to define a safe following distance for drivers to maintain. This has ranged from a 2 to a 4 second following distance. To share the road safely, make sure you are a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you. Use the following tips to determine if you following too closely:

- A. As the car ahead of you passes a stationary point on the road (a sign post, driveway, utility pole, etc.) count the seconds it takes you to reach the same spot. (*In the illustration at right and below "you" are driving the red vehicle.*)
 - B. Count to yourself "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two," etc. You should NOT reach that same point on the road before you finish counting at least "one-thousand-two". If you do you are definitely following too close.
- You should slow down slightly to increase the space between you and the other vehicle. Find another spot to check your new following distance. Repeat this exercise until you are following no closer than two seconds.



This principle will hold true at any speed on State and U.S. Highways with moderate speed limits. However, during

inclement weather, Interstate Highway driving at higher speeds and night driving the 2-second rule should be increased to allow for limited visibility. A minimum of 4 seconds should allow for better reaction time and a safer space cushion under these conditions.

3. STOPPING DISTANCES: Be alert so that you know when you will have to stop well ahead of time. Stopping suddenly is dangerous and usual points to a driver who was not paying attention, speeding or not allowing a safe following distance. Try to avoid panic stops by seeing events well in advance. By slowing down or changing lanes, you may not have to stop at all, and if you do, it can be a more gradual and safer stop. As a rule it is best to never stop on the road, unless necessary for safety or to obey a low (stop sign, etc.).

There are three steps in stopping your vehicle:

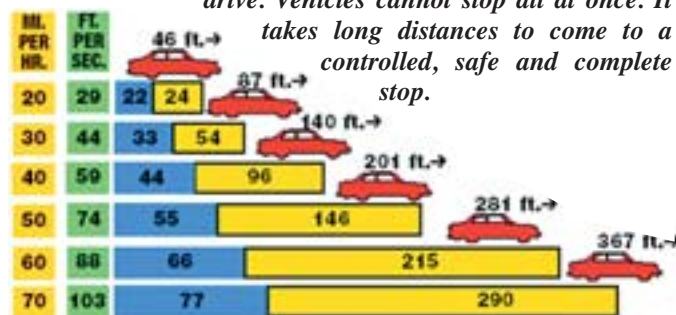
- Driver perception time (length of time it takes to see and recognize a dangerous situation).
- Driver reaction time (time from perception of danger to start of braking - average is 3/4 second noted in blue section of charts below).
- Braking ability includes the type and condition of vehicle brakes as well as vehicle speed.

PERCEPTION, REACTION AND BRAKING TIME		
Step	Time	Explanation
Perception	About .50 second	See/hear danger
Reaction	About .66 second	Brain tells foot to brake
Braking/ Stopping	Varies by speed	Foot presses brake pedal until car stops

Stopping distance can vary widely due to many factors:

- Type and condition of the road/pavement.
- Type and condition of vehicle tires.
- Vehicle design and condition of the shock absorbers.
- Vehicle weight when loaded or towing.

You need to know how long it takes to stop any vehicle you drive. Vehicles cannot stop all at once. It takes long distances to come to a controlled, safe and complete stop.



It takes longer to stop than most people realize. Suppose you're driving on the interstate at night at the maximum limit of 70 M.P.H. A deer suddenly appears in your headlights. Will you be able to stop in time? It will take 1.16 seconds for you to see the deer and move your foot to the brake. Before you even start to brake, you will have traveled 128 feet. If you're

on a good road in good weather, the braking distance at 70 M.P.H. will be 290 feet. Your total stopping distance has now reached 418 feet nearly the length of one-and-a-half football fields!

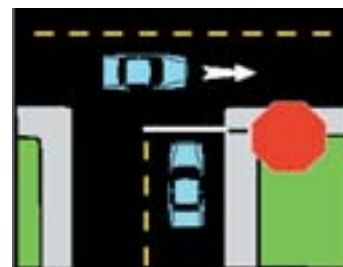
The chart in the previous column shows "average" stopping distances (stopping distances are based on tests made by the Federal Highway Administration) for vehicles under ideal conditions. *Note this chart does not include the distance you will travel in the 1/2 second of time required for perception of the hazard.* According to the National Safety Council, a lightweight passenger car traveling at 50 M.P.H. can stop in about 200 feet. The distance required to stop your vehicle is important in helping you choose a safe driving speed. These charts can be used as a rough guide, but your actual stopping distance will depend upon many factors specific to the situation you encounter.

STOPS REQUIRED BY LAW

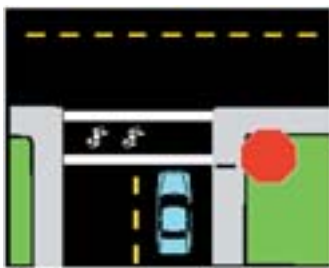
Tennessee law states: *Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the nearest side of a crosswalk, or stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if neither are present, then at a point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the actual intersection.* Tennessee Code defines "stop" as "complete cessation of movement".

You are responsible for knowing the proper stopping procedures required by this law. At stop signs and right-turn-on-red intersections, come to a COMPLETE stop (not a rolling stop) and go only when the traffic is clear. The approaching traffic should not have to slow down or change lanes for your vehicle. You should:

- Come to a full and complete stop at the stop sign (or traffic signal). Often a wide white stop line will be painted on the pavement in line with the sign. You must stop your vehicle behind this line.
- If such pavement marking is not present you should stop with the front of your vehicle even with the stop sign's placement on the roadside.
- If you can't see whether the crossing traffic is clear, edge up slowly until you can clearly see the traffic crossing from both directions.
- If the intersection where the stop sign/traffic signal is placed has a crosswalk for pedestrians marked on the pavement you must stop before the front of your vehicle reaches the nearest white line marking the border of the crosswalk.
- If there are pedestrians in the crosswalk or about to enter the crosswalk you must wait for them to cross before you proceed.
- Once the crosswalk is clear you may slowly edge forward to check traffic before crossing the intersection or entering the roadway.



- When stopping behind another vehicle already stopped at the intersection, make sure you allow adequate “gap” space between the vehicles so you are not “tailgating”.
- A basic rule of thumb is that you should be able to see the license plate and/or the other vehicle’s back tire where it meets the pavement.
- This “gap” provides a safety zone in the event the other vehicle rolls back slightly or stalls. If the vehicle stalls you would still be able to maneuver around it when safe. It also provides you with an evasive “out” in the event of an emergency such as another vehicle approaching from behind so fast that you may need to move to avoid a rear-end collision.
- Once the vehicle in front of you has moved on through the intersection you may move forward to the stop line. Remember you still must bring **your** vehicle to a FULL STOP at the stop line.
- A complete stop is required at a flashing red traffic light, just as with a stop sign.
- After you have stopped, if there is no traffic from the right or left you may proceed. When there is traffic on the crossroad (right to left) and/or oncoming traffic (heading toward you) from the other side of the intersection you must following the right-of-way procedures. (Right-of-Way rules are discussed in depth later in this Chapter.)
- You must stop completely when directed to stop by a flag person at a road construction site or by a police officer directing you to stop in any situation.



Rolling Stops: Rolling stops or “California rolls” are dangerous and illegal. A rolling stop occurs when the driver only slows down for a stop sign or traffic signal and proceeds through the intersection or turn without ever bringing the vehicle to a full and complete stop as required by law. Most law enforcement officers and driver education instructors agree that a vehicle has not come to a complete stop until the driver feels the car lurch after all forward motion has ceased. *You should remember that rolling stops are grounds for receiving a traffic ticket AND for failing the driver examination road test.* The following are also excellent reasons you should not get in the habit of rolling stop signs:

- A driver may not see a child or other pedestrian who assumes the car will follow the law and come to a complete stop.
- There is a better chance of seeing possible hazards because the driver who comes to a full stop has a longer observation period of the intersection.
- If two drivers are traveling at right angles to one-another, and both fail to stop, a collision is almost a certainty.
- Police and insurance companies will hold the driver

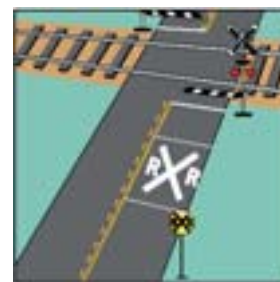
who fails to stop completely liable in the event of an accident, possibly resulting in fines, loss of license, increased insurance rates or loss of insurance coverage.

Stopping for Railroad Crossings

Railroad crossings have pavement markings that include a large cross buck (“X”), the letters “RR”, a no-passing zone stripe and a stop line. Railroad crossing collisions should not happen. When they do, it usually means drivers are not paying attention to signs, pavement markings, and other warnings that tell when a train is coming.

Tennessee law states: *“Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing,...the driver of such vehicle shall stop within fifty feet (50’) but not less than fifteen feet (15’) from the nearest rail of such railroad, and shall not proceed until that driver can do so safely. The foregoing requirements shall apply when:*

- 1) *A clearly visible electric or mechanical signal device gives warning of the immediate approach of a railroad train;*
- 2) *A crossing gate is lowered or when a human flagger gives a signal of the approach or passage of a train;*
- 3) *A railroad train approaching within approximately 1,500 feet of the highway crossing emits a signal audible from such distance and such railroad train, by reason of its speed or nearness to such highway crossing, is an immediate hazard; and*
- 4) *An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to such highway crossing. No person shall drive any vehicle through, around or under any crossing gate or barrier at the railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.”*



STOP—LOOK—LISTEN—LOOK AGAIN!

Every motor vehicle should be driven at a rate of speed that will permit the vehicle to be stopped before reaching the nearest rail of a railroad crossing. The vehicle should not be



driven over the crossing until all railroad tracks are completely clear of train traffic. Violations of railroad signals or signs carry the same penalties as violations of other traffic control devices.

CERTAIN VEHICLES REQUIRED TO STOP AT ALL RAILROAD CROSSINGS: Tennessee law also states that certain vehicles must stop at all railroad grade/highway crossings whether or not any signs or signals are activated at the time the vehicle approaches the crossing. As a driver you

must be aware of this requirement so you will be prepared for meeting or following these vehicles when they have stopped at the crossing.

The vehicles listed below are required by law to stop before crossing ANY railroad grade crossing:

- Church or School buses regardless of whether such school bus is carrying any school child at the time of crossing.
- Common carriers such as taxis or other vehicles transporting passengers for hire.
- Vehicles transporting flammables, explosives or other dangerous articles as cargo or part of a cargo.

When it is safe to do so, the driver may proceed across the tracks in a gear that permits the vehicle to complete the crossing of the track(s) without a change of gears.

Buses at a railroad crossing should pull to the right. This side movement of the vehicle along with its stoplights is a very clear signal, day or night, that the vehicle is preparing to stop. You must be alert to this type of movement by buses. Also tanker trucks or other vehicles required to stop at all railroad tracks will generally signal such stop by displaying the emergency flashers of the vehicle to alert other drivers to the impending stop.

The School Bus Stop Law

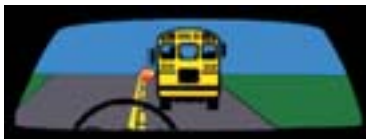
Meeting A School Bus

— The driver of any vehicle approaching from the front, a school bus or church bus on which the red stop warning signal lights are flashing, should reduce the speed of the vehicle and bring the vehicle to a complete stop while the bus stop signal arm is extended. The vehicle must remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion.



Overtaking A School Bus

Bus — The driver of any vehicle approaching a school bus or church bus from the rear shall not pass the bus when red stop warning signal lights are flashing and must bring the vehicle to a complete stop when the bus is stopped. The vehicle must remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and the bus resumes motion.



School Bus Warning Lights

YELLOW FLASHING:

When the yellow lights on the front and back of the bus are flashing the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.



RED FLASHING:

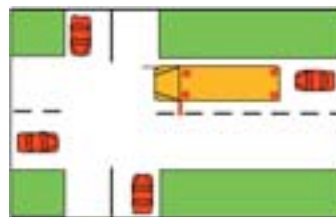
When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended this indicates that the bus **HAS** stopped and that children are now getting on or off the bus. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.



IT IS ILLEGAL IN ALL 50 STATES TO PASS A SCHOOL BUS THAT HAS STOPPED TO LOAD OR UNLOAD STUDENTS.

Never pass on the right side of the bus, as this is where the children enter or exit. This is illegal and can have tragic results. You must stop and remain stopped until:

- The bus has started moving, OR
- The driver motions for you to proceed, OR
- the red flashing lights go off and/or the stop arm is pulled back.



When a school bus is stopped at an intersection to load and unload children, drivers from **ALL** directions are required to stop until the bus resumes motion. (As shown by the red vehicles in the diagram at left.)

When driving on a highway with separate roadways for traffic in opposite directions, divided by median space or barrier not suitable for vehicular traffic, the driver need not stop but should proceed with caution.

Note: A turn lane in the middle of a four-lane highway is NOT considered a barrier, but a fifth lane that is suitable for vehicular traffic, drivers meeting a stopped school bus on this type of road would be required to stop in both directions.

T.C.A. 55-8-151(A)(5)(B)

IT IS A CLASS A MISDEMEANOR PUNISHABLE ONLY BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250) NOR MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) FOR ANY PERSON TO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH PROVISION OF THIS SUBSECTION REQUIRING A MOTOR VEHICLE TO STOP UPON APPROACHING A SCHOOL BUS.

Stopping for Police Vehicles

Police vehicles which are attempting to stop drivers will do so by means of a visual, flashing blue or flashing blue and red lights, or audible signal. Remember, a police officer never knows what to expect when stopping a driver. Don't let your emotions or sudden unexplained movements (or those of your passengers) introduce an element of tension and anxiety into the occurrence. A police officer may be more likely to listen to what you have to say and less likely to feel threatened by you (or your passengers) if you follow these guidelines.

- Drive as close as is safely practical to the right-hand edge or curb of the road, clear of any intersection, stop and park.
- Limit the movements of the driver and/or passengers while stopping your vehicle
- Drivers should keep their hands on the steering wheel and passengers should keep their hands in plain view. **Drivers should advise officers if they have a handgun permit and if they are armed.**
- Provide your driver license and/or vehicle registration when requested.
- Keep all vehicle doors closed and remain in the vehicle unless requested to get out.
- If stop is made after dark, turn on the vehicle's interior light before the officer approaches
- If enforcement action is taken against you that you disagree with, do not argue with the officer at the scene. Traffic violations and traffic crimes charged against you are decided in court.
- If you find yourself being directed to pull over and stop by someone in an UNMARKED police car it is acceptable for you to drive a *short distance to the nearest* area where there are other people, such as the next business parking lot or the next exit if on the Interstate. This is especially prudent if traveling at night and/or alone.

INTERSECTIONS

Now that you have studied the effects of speed, following distances, stopping distances and legally required stops, it is time to look at the complex issue of Intersections. This includes rules for the right-of-way, pedestrians, right turns, left turns and turn signals.

Intersections are places where traffic merges or crosses. They Include:

- cross streets,
- side streets,
- driveways, and
- shopping center or parking lot entrances

More crashes happen at intersections than any other place. Intersections constitute a very small part of rural and urban street/highway systems, yet they are implicated in 40% of all motor vehicle crashes and more than 9,000 deaths per year (1998 NHTSA data). Be very careful when approaching any intersection or driveway. Never assume another driver will yield the right-of-way to you. Always be prepared to stop.

APPROACHING INTERSECTIONS SAFELY

Traffic checks are the process of looking frequently and carefully for vehicle traffic approaching your car from each direction. Traffic checks are especially important when merging or changing lanes and particularly when approaching and crossing intersections.

- **Look:** Look both ways as you near an intersection. Before you enter an intersection continue checking traffic from both the left and right for approaching vehicles and/or crossing pedestrians.



1. Look first to the left to make sure cross traffic is yielding the right-of-way, then look for traffic from the right. If stopped, look both left and right just before you start moving. Look across the intersection before you start to move to make sure the path is clear through the intersection when driving straight through.
 2. As you enter the intersection, check again for unusual or unexpected actions to the left and right.
 3. It is also important to watch for vehicle traffic from the front (oncoming traffic) and rear (approaching/overtaking traffic) of your vehicle at intersections. Be especially aware of vehicles behind you. If the light changes and/or you encounter a vehicle violating the right-of-way, causing you to need to stop suddenly will the vehicle behind be able to stop? It is unfortunately not uncommon for drivers to run red lights or stop signs which could result in you being involved in a head-on or rear-end collision.
- **Control Speed:** Be prepared to brake or stop unexpectedly at intersections if the above traffic checks alert you to a possible hazard. You should slow down **before** reaching the intersection, drive at your slowest speed just before entering the intersection and gradually increase your speed safely as you cross the intersection.
 - **Use Proper Lane:** You should be in the proper lane for the direction you intend to travel **before** you reach the intersection. Do not make last minute lane changes as you start through an intersection. Do NOT pass a vehicle in an intersection.

- **Safety:** Most importantly you must know and obey
 1. the proper right-of-way procedures for vehicles and pedestrians at intersections,
 2. the purpose and meaning of pavement markings.
 3. the purpose and meaning of traffic signals, stop or yield signs posted at intersections,
 4. proper lane usage and speed at intersections,
 5. proper use of your own vehicle turn signals

THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PROCEDURES

Vehicles or pedestrians are likely to meet one another where there are no signs or lights to control traffic. There are rules on who must yield the right-of-way. These rules tell who

goes first and who must wait in different traffic situations. However if another driver doesn't follow these rules, give him the right-of-way. In all driving situations think of the right-of-way as something to be given, not taken. All drivers should know and understand the following rules which determine the right-of-way.

You Must Not Insist On The Right-Of-Way

The law does not really give anyone the right-of-way. It only says who must yield it. A driver must do everything possible to avoid a traffic accident. Rules for the most common situations drivers encounter include:

1. Yielding to Pedestrians crossing the road or your path of travel:

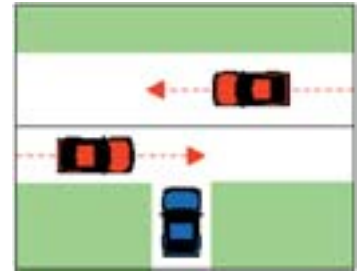
- When pedestrians are in a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) and there are no traffic lights or police at the intersection.
- When your car is turning a corner and pedestrians are crossing with the light.
- When your vehicle crosses a sidewalk when entering or exiting a driveway, alley or parking lot. It is illegal to drive on a sidewalk except to cross it.
- When a blind pedestrian using a guide dog or carrying a white cane with red tip is crossing any portion of the road way, even if not at an intersection or crosswalk. Do not use your horn as it could startle the blind pedestrian. If you see anyone in the roadway with a dog guide or a white cane, stop at least ten feet away until the person is off the roadway.
- Persons operating motorized wheelchairs on a sidewalk or roadway are also granted the same right-of-way as pedestrians.
- You must yield to children playing in the streets. In crowded downtown areas and in suburban residential neighborhoods, children play in the streets because there may not be parks or playgrounds nearby. Even though they have been told not to run into the street, children won't always put safety ahead of a runaway puppy or a bouncing ball. Children on bicycles can easily forget to slow down before entering an intersection or to signal and look behind before they turn. You are responsible for driving with extreme caution when children are present. Slow down near schools, playgrounds and residential areas.



2. Yielding to Oncoming Traffic: When meeting other traffic at intersections or when entering the roadway make sure the other driver sees you. Make eye contact whenever possible. Drive cautiously and defensively. Drive friendly. Remember the right-of-way is something to be given, not taken.

- When you are starting from a parked position you should wait for all moving traffic to pass.

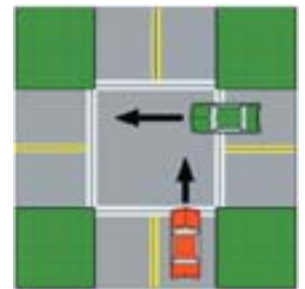
- When turning left you must wait for oncoming traffic going straight ahead or turning right.



- When you are entering a main road from a driveway, alley, parking lot or roadside you must yield to all vehicles already on the main road. (The blue car in the diagram at right must yield the right-of-way.)
- When you are entering a roundabout, traffic circle or rotary (also known as "town squares") you must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- When approaching a MERGE onto a busy highway or Interstate you must increase or decrease speed as needed to avoid an accident and yield the right-of-way if necessary to the oncoming traffic.
- When approaching a fire station you should yield to any emergency vehicle that is about to back into, or is already in the process of backing into, the driveway entrance to the station.

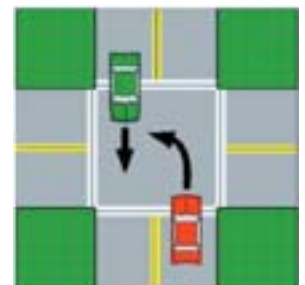
3. Yielding at Intersections: The right-of-way should be determined by each driver before entering an intersection. If you have the right-of-way and another driver yields it to you, proceed immediately. However YOU must yield:

- When oncoming vehicles (including bicycles) are proceeding straight or making a right turn you must yield the right-of-way to those vehicles.
- At intersections where YIELD signs are posted the driver must slow down or stop to avoid an accident with oncoming traffic
- To any vehicles that are already in the intersection even if you have the green traffic light. (The red vehicle in the diagram at right must yield to the green vehicle.)



- At "T" intersections where one road "dead-ends" into another main crossing roadway, the vehicles on the road ending must yield to oncoming traffic from both directions on the main road.

- When turning left at intersections you must yield to any oncoming vehicle proceeding straight or turning right, unless you have a traffic light where your left turn is on a protected green arrow. (The red vehicle shown at right must yield.)



- At intersections marked as 4-way or All way stops, the vehicle reaching the intersection first gets to go first (of course, ALL vehicles must stop). If more than one vehicle arrives at the same time, yield the right of way to the vehicle on your right.
- Where roads cross and there are no stop signs or signals, wait for any vehicle coming at the same time on your right.
- You should not enter an intersection unless you can get through it without having to stop. You should wait until traffic in front of you clears so that you are not blocking the intersection. If your vehicle is left blocking an intersection (with or without a traffic signal) it prevents other traffic from proceeding and you could be ticketed for this type of action.

4. Yielding to Emergency Vehicles and Transit Buses

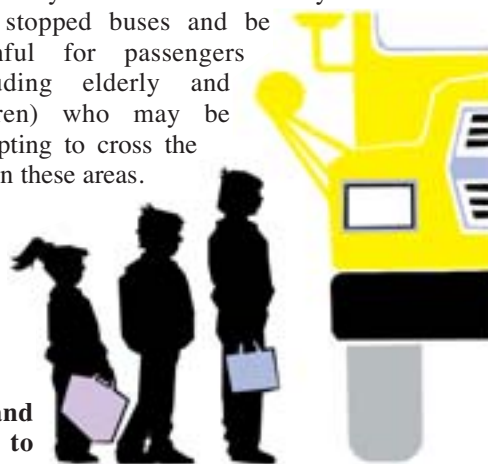
- You must yield the right-of-way to a police vehicle, fire engine, ambulance or other emergency vehicle using a siren, air horn or a red or blue flashing light.
- **It is against the law for an unauthorized private vehicle to have a blue flashing emergency light or combination of blue and red flashing emergency lights installed, maintained or visibly exhibited on the vehicle in any manner.**



- **Following Fire Apparatus:** The driver of any vehicle, other than one on official business, shall not follow any fire apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm or drive into or park any vehicle within the block where the fire apparatus has stopped in response to a fire alarm. No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a fire department without the consent of the department official in command.
- Tennessee law requires that upon the *immediate approach of an emergency vehicle all traffic meeting or being overtaken must YIELD the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and stop. Remain in that stopped position until the emergency vehicle has passed or you have been directed to move by a police*

officer. Proceed with caution. There may be other emergency vehicles coming.

- If you are in an intersection, drive on through the intersection before you pull over otherwise you may inadvertently block the emergency vehicle's path through the intersection.
 - Do not pull over to the right where you will be blocking a side road or driveway. The emergency vehicle may need to turn into that road or driveway to get to the incident scene.
 - If the traffic light is red, stay where you are. If the light turns green before the emergency vehicle has passed do NOT proceed on green - wait until the emergency vehicle has passed or turned onto a different street.
 - When yielding to emergency vehicles you should get in the habit of turning down the volume on the radio (if on) so that you may hear any instructions or directions given out over the emergency vehicle's loudspeaker. Your immediate reaction to such directions may be critically needed.
- You must yield the right-of-way to any transit vehicle (metro bus) that has signaled and is pulling back onto the roadway from a bus stop. Generally this occurs on urban roadways in areas usually marked by "bus stop" signs or benches. However occasionally you may encounter cross-country commercial buses signaling to re-enter traffic after allowing passengers to disembark on rural roadways in smaller communities and towns.
 - A. You are not required to stop for, nor forbidden to pass, these transit buses when they are stopped for passenger pick-up or drop-off as you would be for a school bus in the same situation. (See "The School Bus Stop Law" section of this manual for complete details.)
 - B. However you should be extremely cautious near such stopped buses and be watchful for passengers (including elderly and children) who may be attempting to cross the road in these areas.



5. Slowing and Yielding to stationary

vehicles on the roadside: New legislation enacted on July 1, 2003 requires that drivers upon approaching any stationary vehicles must proceed with due caution and, if possible, make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the vehicle, or proceed with due caution by

reducing the speed of the vehicle and maintaining a safe speed for the current road conditions. Examples are:

- “authorized emergency vehicle”, (police, fire, ambulance or rescue)
- “highway maintenance vehicle”, (state, county, city or vendor vehicles used for road repair, maintenance or construction)
- or —
- “recovery vehicle” (tow truck or wrecker)

This is required only on multi-lane roadways where there are two or more lanes of traffic moving in the same direction and the stationary vehicles are along the roadside in the direction of the driver’s travel.

TURNING

The most common faults when making turns are failing to signal, not signaling long enough, failing to search for hazards, turning from the wrong lane, and failing to turn properly. Rules for turning apply at all locations, even driveways and alleys, not just at intersections. *The first rule of turning is to turn from the closest lane in the direction you are traveling to the closest legal lane in the direction you want to go.* The law designates which lanes and positions you must use when turning, and the required signaling distances for such turns. This section will expand on those rules and help you to learn the proper procedures for signaling and making safe turns.

1. SIGNALING

A TURN: Before making any turn, whether the turn is into another roadway, a parking lot, another traffic lane, or leaving a parked position, it is extremely important that you signal. Other drivers expect you to keep traveling the path of the roadway and using the lane in which you vehicle is positioned. Your signal lets other drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians know your intentions to make a change in your vehicle’s path of travel and give them time to react to your intended movements. However signaling does NOT give you the right-of-way.

You should always use your turn signals before you:



- Change lanes or make any movement of your vehicle to the right or left
- Turn at an intersection or into a driveway, alley or

parking lot

- Enter or exit the interstate or other controlled access roadway
- Pull away from a parked position along the curb
- Pull over to the curb or roadside
- Slow down or stop your vehicle suddenly

You may use either your vehicle turn signal lights or hand and arm signals. Make sure your signals can be easily seen by others. The illustration below shows the standard positions for hand and arm signals. Extend your hand and arm well out of the car window and signal in plenty of time.

A. Hand Signal Tips:

- When you use hand signals, bring your arm in during the actual turn to keep control of the steering wheel.
- During non-daylight hours, hand and arm signals are usually not visible except in well lighted areas.
- Hand signals should also be used when the sun is shining brightly and may make your turn signal light harder for other drivers to see easily.
- In heavy traffic a hand signal may be seen by drivers who are several cars back and the line of cars following you could obscure their view of your turn signal light.

B. Electrical Turn Signal Tips:

- Check your vehicle’s turn signals often to be sure your signal lights are working properly.
- Be sure that your turn signal lights (front and rear) are clean and free from dust, dirt, ice or snow.
- When signaling a stop, pump your brakes a few times to attract attention.
- Be sure to turn off your turn signal light after you use it.

YOUR UNINTENDED SIGNAL STILL MEANS “TURN” TO THE OTHER DRIVERS. You might tempt other drivers to pull out in front of you.

You should not assume that all drivers will respond to your signaled intentions. Also be aware that some drivers will not signal their intentions. Therefore, maintain control of your vehicle at all times and “drive defensively”. Your signal helps other drivers plan ahead. A surprise move often results in accidents. As a good driver you should be alert and emphasize your intentions to turn by giving the proper signal or signals.

- At least 50 feet before the turn, you must turn on your flashing directional signals.
- You should use your turn signals **ONLY** to indicate when **YOU** plan to turn or change lanes.
- If you are parked at a curb or roadside and about to re-enter traffic, use a signal long enough to alert oncoming traffic that you are moving from the parked position back into the traffic lane.
- You should look back, using your rear-view mirrors.
- You must get into the correct lane. This is most important, for now, your car becomes a big signal to help indicate your intention to turn.

- If you plan to turn beyond an intersection, *do not signal until you are in the intersection*. If you signal earlier, another driver may think you intend to turn at the intersection and might pull into your path.
- You should get in the habit of signaling every time you change direction. Signal even if you do not see anyone else around. *It is the car you do not see, that is the most dangerous.*
- When you slow down and your brake lights flash as a signal. Slowing down, itself, acts as a signal.

C. You should NOT use your turn signals:

- To signal a driver behind you to come around to pass your vehicle.

Proper signaling is a key to safe driving. Failing to signal is dangerous and inconsiderate. Communicating while driving is a must. Safe drivers are good communicators. They are always aware of surrounding conditions and readily communicate their intentions to other drivers by using their signals at ALL times.

- To relay the turn intentions of vehicles ahead of you to those drivers behind your vehicle. This is misleading to other drivers and your brake lights will be sufficient to warn those behind you to slow down. If you see someone ahead signaling they are about to turn, do NOT turn on your turn signals unless you also plan to turn.

2. MAKING TURNS: Before making a turn, be sure you can do so safely. Check traffic ahead, behind and to the side. Become familiar with the following Do's and Don'ts:

DO:

- Use your turn signal at least 50 feet before the turn or lane change.
- Make thorough traffic checks, looking behind and on both sides to see where other vehicles are, so you can change lanes and make the turn safely.
- Move into the correct lane as soon as possible. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should move into the proper lane. Go from one lane to the other as directly as possible without crossing lane lines of interfering with the traffic.
- Slow down before you reach the stop line or crosswalk, select the proper gear before entering the intersection and accelerate slightly through the turn.
- As you turn, make sure to check for pedestrians, cyclist and other traffic as you turn. Make the turn correctly staying in the proper lane and maintaining a safe speed.
- Finish the turn in the proper lane. Once you have completed your turn, you can change to another lane if you need to.

DON'T:

- Don't turn unless the turn is permitted and can be made safely; be aware of signs prohibiting right or left turns at certain locations.

- Don't try to turn from the wrong lane. If you aren't in the proper lane, drive to the next intersection and make the turn from the proper lane there. Circle back if you have to, this may take you some extra time and miles however it will be much better than causing an accident, injury or worse.
- Don't "swing wide" or "cut the corner" when making your turns. Don't turn too short so as to cut corners on left turns or run over the curb on right turns. Turning too wide or too late, straddling lanes, or turning into the wrong side of the street will result in not being able to turn into the correct lane. Always follow the white lines in intersections using multiple turn lanes.
- Don't turn your wheels in the direction of the turn while waiting for oncoming traffic to pass. If you are hit from the rear while your wheels are turned, the impact can push you right into oncoming traffic. Keep your vehicles wheels straight until you begin the turn. Wait until you are sure you can complete the turn before turning the wheels.
- Don't enter the intersection if traffic ahead may keep you from completing the turn before the traffic light changes. Stay behind the stop line or crosswalk until you can fully complete the turn without the risk of blocking the traffic flow.
- Don't brake or depress the clutch while actually turning.
- Don't shift gears in the intersection (if you stall you could cause an accident and/or block the intersection to other traffic).

3. LEFT TURNS: You should study the diagram showing the five basic steps in making left turns from routine 2-way streets to 2-way streets.

When you are meeting another driver at an intersection and both of you want to turn left, each will turn to the left of the other. Leave from the left lane or as close to the yellow center line as possible and enter in the left lane or as close to the yellow center line as shown in the diagrams below.

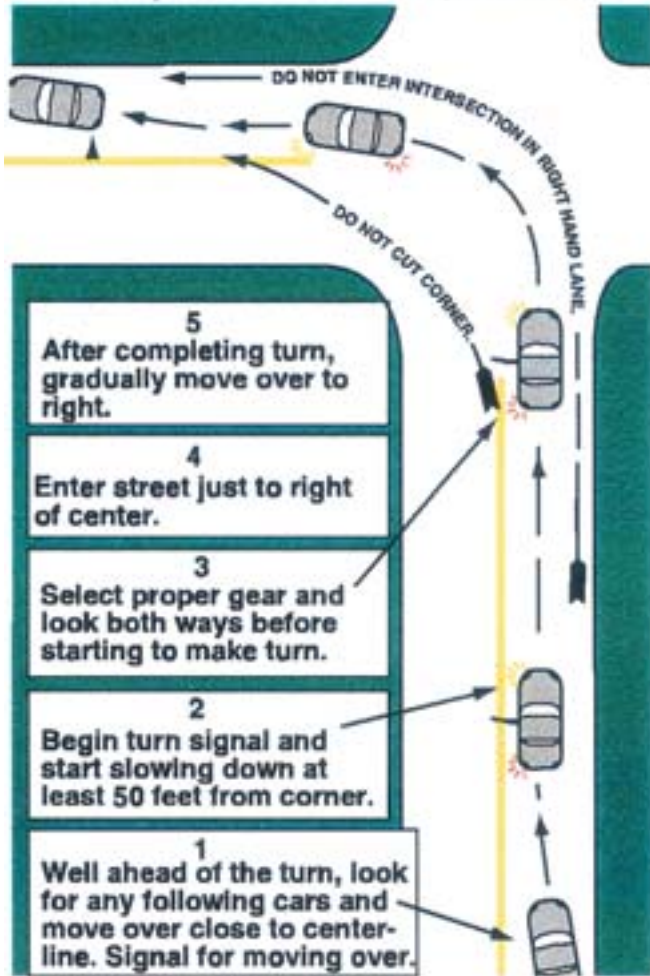
A. From A Two-Way Street Onto A Two-Way Street

Remember these tips:

- Reduce speed and get into the lane just to the right of the center line well ahead of time.
- Signal your intentions for at least 50 feet and approach the turn with your left wheels as close to the center line as possible. *Failure to signal is dangerous, inconsiderate and illegal. Your signal makes it possible for other cars to complete a turn.*
- Look out of your left window for pedestrians and other traffic in your turn path. Yield to any oncoming cars or pedestrians.
- Begin your turn when you enter the intersection. Keep your wheels straight until you can turn; turn just before the imaginary center point in the intersection. Drive just to the right of the center line of the street you're entering and be sure to turn into the first lane past the center line. This avoids conflict with other traffic making either right

HOW TO MAKE A LEFT TURN

There are five steps in making a left turn. Take care to keep close to the centerline, but don't cross it.



or left turns. Never turn “wide” into the right lane. *The right lane will be used by any oncoming vehicles turning right.*

- If the intersection has a lane signed or marked for making left turns, do not make this turn from any other lane. At some areas you may make turns from more than one lane. Signs and pavement markings will tell you if this is allowed. If there are multiple lanes you must keep your vehicle in the lane you start from throughout the turn. Be alert for signs that may also PROHIBIT left turns at some intersections.
- Pay close attention to the traffic light cycle. If the light turns yellow while you are waiting for oncoming vehicles to clear the intersection, **do NOT proceed into the intersection.**

B. From A Two-Way Street Onto A One-Way Street

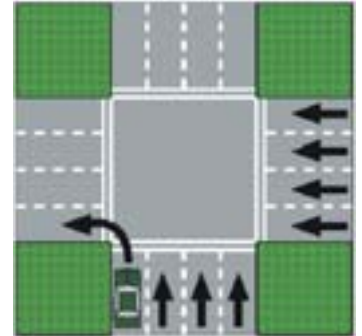
Keep in mind the following differences when turning on one-way streets:



- When making left-hand turns, be alert for “one-way” street signs on traffic lights, posts and stop signs.
- Center lines on two-way streets are yellow.
- Center lines on one-way streets are white.
- Make the proper “two-way” approach next to the center line.
- Turn sharply into the **FIRST** lane. Remember you are turning onto a one-way street so both lanes will be traveling in the same direction and you should turn into the first lane closest to the left curb.

C. From A One-Way Street Onto A One-Way Street

- Make your approach in the traffic lane furthestmost to the left curb of the street.
- Turn sharply into the first lane on the left side of the one-way street. **DO NOT TURN WIDE.**
- At intersections that are not marked for “No Turns on Red” you may make a left turn on red when turning from a one-way street onto a one-way street. You must come to a complete stop at the light prior to making the turn, same as right turns on red.



D. From A One-Way Street Onto A Two-Way Street

- Make your approach in the traffic lane furthestmost to the left curb of the street.
- Don't start your turn at the crosswalk. Drive into the intersection and then turn sharply into the first lane to the right of the yellow lane on the two-way street.
- If the two-way streets has multiple lanes you may move into the right lane **ONLY AFTER** giving the proper turn signal and checking traffic to your right.
- You can **NOT** make this left turn on a red light.



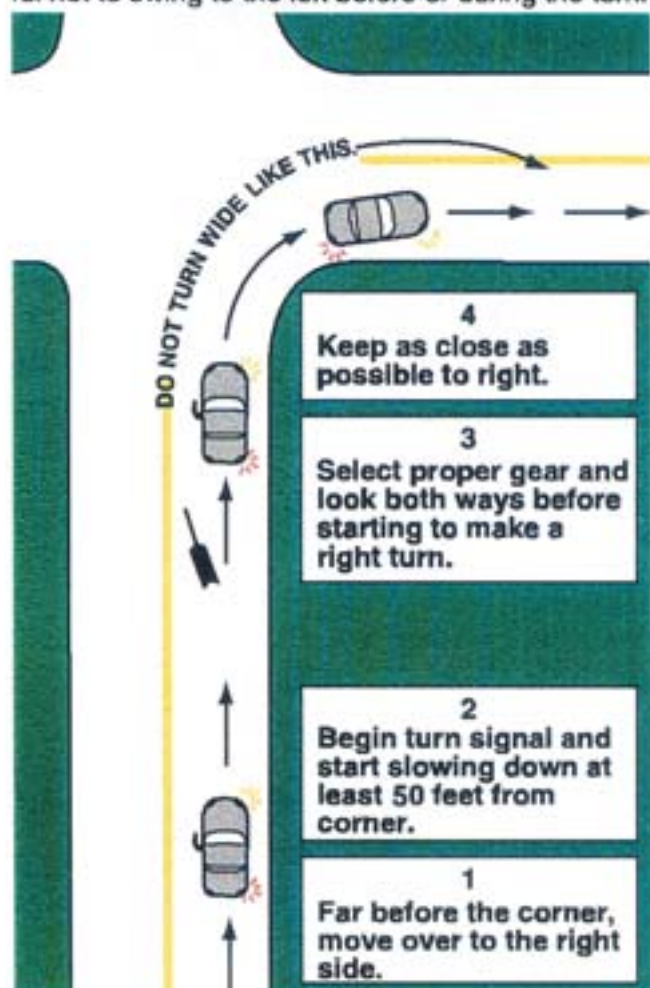
E. Notes on Multiple Turn Lanes

- A vehicle in the second lane can make the same turn as a vehicle in the first lane only when a lane use control sign or marking permits it.
- You'll often see white channel lines & arrows on the pavement. These lines help to direct you into the correct lane while turning.

4. RIGHT TURNS: Making right turns can be just as dangerous as left turns. Study the diagram showing the 4

HOW TO MAKE A RIGHT TURN

There are four steps in making a right turn. Be careful not to swing to the left before or during the turn.



basic steps making right turns. You should also remember these tips:

- On right turns, avoid moving wide to the left before going into the turn or as you make the turn. If you swing wide, the driver behind you may think you are changing lanes or turning left and may try to pass you on the right. If you swing wide as you complete the turn, drivers who are in the far lane will not expect to see your vehicle in that lane of traffic.
- Well ahead of the turning point check for traffic behind and beside your vehicle. Get as close as is practical to the right curb or road edge without interfering with pedestrians, bicyclists or parked vehicles.
- Give a signal for a right turn for at least 50 feet .
- Before starting to turn look to the left and right for cross traffic on the intersecting street and oncoming traffic that may also be turning. Always check for pedestrians or bicyclists to your right before turning. Remember to yield the right-of-way, if necessary.

- Move your vehicle around the corner and into the travel lane closest to the right curb.

A. Turn Warning: Trucks and Buses Turning Right

When driving in city traffic, pay special attention to the turn signals of large trucks and buses.

- Large trucks and buses **MUST** make wide turns.
- Sometimes they must leave an open space to the right just before the turn. To avoid an accident, don't pass a truck on the right if there is a possibility that it might make a right turn.



B. Turns Permitted on Red

Tennessee law allows a right turn on red and left turns on red at certain one-way to one-way intersections, unless otherwise posted.

- When making a right turn at a red light, you must first come to a complete stop before reaching the marked or unmarked crosswalk or stop line. Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists and of course, oncoming traffic. Be sure to check for signs that prohibit turns on red and/or requires you to use specific lanes for turns.
- A left turn on a red or stop signal shall be permitted at all intersections where a one-way street intersects with another one-way street where traffic is moving in the same direction into which the left turn would be made. You must follow the same rules for complete stop, yielding and observing signs prohibiting turns as you would for a right turn on red.

5. SPECIAL TURNS: Roundabouts and U-Turns



A. Roundabouts: A roundabout is an intersection control device with traffic circulating around a central island. Such traffic circles are usually used to discourage drivers from using neighborhood street for commuting thoroughfares, to slow speeds, and to reduce accidents. You may think that a roundabout is a type of intersection that you would only encounter in a European country. However roundabouts are gaining more favor in American urban and residential areas. Also many of your home towns may have a form of roundabout that has been in use for years known as the “town square”.

- You always travel around a traffic circle or roundabout to the right in a counter clockwise direction.



- On approaching the roundabout, stay in your lane and to the right of the splinter island or yellow pavement markings/curbs directing traffic to the right. These islands or medians are used to prevent vehicles from attempting to travel left around the circle.

- Upon reaching the roundabout, you must yield to vehicles already within the circulating traffic. You should observe the standard right-of-way procedures as with regular intersections controlled by yield signs. Enter the roundabout when there is a gap in traffic and once inside do not stop unless directed to do so by signs, signals or a traffic officer.
- Within the roundabout, proceed at a slower speed (usually posted at 15 to 25 M.P.H.). You may exit the roundabout at any street or continue around again if you miss the street you wanted to turn on .
- In a multi-lane roundabout, do not overtake or pass any vehicles. Remember the roundabout is a low speed traffic control device. Be prepared to yield to vehicle turning in front of you from the inside lane to exit the roundabout.
- Exit the roundabout carefully; always indicate your exit using your right turn signal. Watch for pedestrians in or approaching the crosswalk on the street you are exiting onto and yield the right-of-way if necessary.

B. U-Turns: A U-turn is a turn within the road, made in one smooth u-shaped motion, so as to end up with your vehicle traveling in the opposite/reverse direction as before the turn. *Some towns and cities do not allow U-Turns on the streets and roadways under their control. Check with local police to be sure.*

You may NOT make a U-Turn:

- At any intersection where a traffic light or police officer is controlling the traffic flow.
- At any rural or urban location where you cannot see traffic coming from both directions for at least 500 feet in each direction.



- At any location where U-Turns are prohibited by official signs or markings.
- Between intersections in a city. The safest thing to do is drive around the block.
- At or near a curve or the crest of a hill when the driver cannot see 500 feet or more in each direction. Improper turns are a major contributor to traffic crashes.
- It is illegal in Tennessee for any driver to make a U-Turn on an interstate highway. Emergency crossovers are for the use of emergency vehicles and highway maintenance crews only. It is extremely dangerous and illegal to use them to “turn around” in the event you missed an exit or are in a traffic jam. Drive on to the next exit ramp. Don’t cut across the median strip as this maneuver is also illegal.

TRAFFIC LANES AND LANE USAGE

A traffic lane is a part of a roadway wide enough for a car or a single line of vehicles to travel safely. Most lanes on hard-surfaced roads are marked with white or yellow pavement line markings. On dirt or gravel roads, some rural roads, private drives and other roadways (such as parking lot rows and shopping center perimeter roads) the lanes may not be marked, but they are there anyway. When driving on a road without any centerline markings and where vehicles are coming from each direction, drivers must give others going in the opposite direction at least half the road.

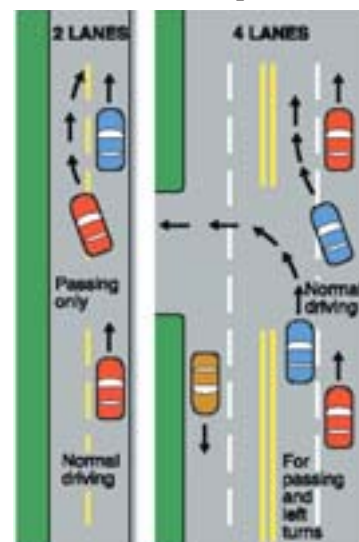
1. Overview of Lane Usage

“White on Your Right, Yellow on Your Left” this simple statement sums up the principle of “right hand traffic” on which all traffic must move upon American roadways. If you ever find yourself driving with the yellow line on to your right pull over immediately. You are driving on the wrong side of the road!

Always drive on the right side of a two-lane highway except when passing. If the road has four or more lanes with two-way traffic, drive in the right lanes except when overtaking and passing other vehicles safely and legally.

Left lanes on some interstate highways are reserved for car pool vehicles with two or more occupants in the car - watch for diamond signs in the median or painted on the pavement. The center lane of a three-lane or five-lane highway is used only for turning left.

Drive in the Proper Lane



Keeping Right - Drive on the right of the road except when:

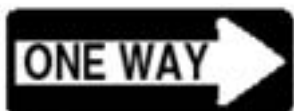
- Passing another vehicle going in the same direction as your vehicle.

- Driving to the left of center to pass an obstruction. (Whenever possible always drive around obstructions or accidents to the right side to avoid the possibility of becoming involved in a head-on collision.)
- A road is marked for one way traffic.
- You are turning left.

2 LANES - Two-lane highways have a single broken yellow centerline. You should always drive to the right of the centerline, except to pass, when you can pass safely.

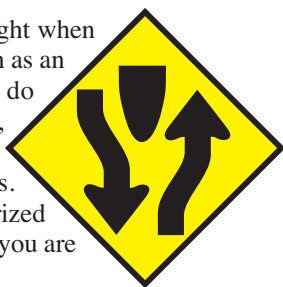
4 LANES - A four-lane (or more) highway is divided in half by two solid yellow lines in the center. The two lanes on each side are divided by a dashed white line. Drive in the extreme right lane except when passing another vehicle or to make a left turn.

ONE WAY - A one-way highway is generally composed of two or more lanes restricted to moving in one direction. There should not be any vehicles traveling in the opposite direction on these roads.



2. Divided Highways

Always use the road on the right when driving on a divided highway, such as an interstate, unless directed to do otherwise. Do not drive within, across or over any median strip or barrier separating these roadways. It is only allowed at an authorized crossover or intersection, or when you are officially directed to do so.



On a divided 4-lane highway when using a designated crossover for a left turn (or a U-Turn where permitted) you should treat the crossover/opening the same as a cross street by keeping to the right side of the crossover paved area.

- If a vehicle is already in the crossover waiting for traffic to clear you should remain stopped in the left most lane of the 4-lane highway with your turn signal on until the waiting vehicle has cleared the crossover.
- DO NOT** “swing” into the left side of the crossover or “bunch-up” behind the waiting car. This creates a dangerous situation for any vehicle attempting to use the crossover for a left turn coming from the opposite direction. additionally:
 - It leaves your vehicle with its rear-end partially sticking out in the left traffic lane. In this position approaching vehicles coming upon your car are less likely to notice your turn signal than if your vehicle was fully stopped in the left lane.
 - It places your car on the “wrong side of the road” in the crossover and could cause a head-on collision with a vehicle attempting to turn left in the crossover from the opposite direction.
- Remember such a crossover is **PERMITTED ONLY** at paved openings provided on 4-lane highways. There are **NO** crossovers provided for traffic on interstates. It is

ILLEGAL to crossover or cross the median on the interstate unless directed to do so.

Driving the wrong way on a one-way road or street is very dangerous and illegal. If you see red reflectors facing you on the lane lines, or red “Wrong Way” and “Do Not Enter” signs, you are on the wrong side of the road. Get into the proper lane immediately! If you see red reflectors on the lines on the edge of the road, you are on the wrong freeway ramp. Pull over immediately! Red reflectors always mean you are facing traffic the wrong way and could have a head-on collision.



3. Dual Use Lanes

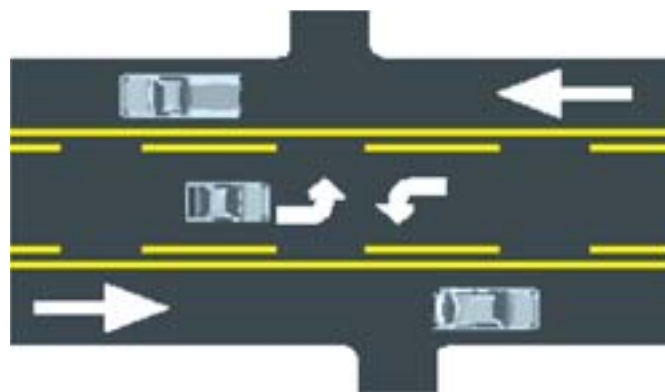
Dual use lanes have both a turn arrow and a straight arrow. You can proceed straight or make the indicated turn from these lanes as shown by the pavement markings and/or signs erected at the intersection. Unless the intersection has a protected arrow for your turn you must follow the standard right-of-way rules.



4. Shared Center Turn/2-Way Left Turn Lane

These center lanes are reserved for vehicles making left turns in either direction from or into the roadway. These lanes cannot be used for passing and cannot be used for travel further than 300 feet. On the pavement, left turn arrows for traffic in one direction alternate with left turn arrows for traffic coming from the other direction. These lanes are marked on each side by solid yellow and broken yellow lines. Enter the shared lane only when safe to do so.

If this special lane has been provided for making left turns, do not make a left turn from any other lane. Enter the shared center turn lane just before you want to make the turn. If you enter too soon, you may interfere with another driver's use of the lane. Wait in the special lane until traffic clears enough to allow you to complete the desired left turn movement. Do **NOT** travel in the center turn lane to access a left turn lane at an intersection.



You may turn from a side street or driveway into a shared center turn lane, stop, and wait for traffic to clear before merging into traffic in the lane immediately to your right. Make sure the lane is clear in both directions and then turn into the lane only when it is safe.

Be sure to give the proper signal while waiting to move into the right lane and also when moving out of the turn lane back into the right lane of traffic



If another vehicle is already in the turn lane from the other direction you may NOT enter if it will interfere with the other vehicle's intended turn. When vehicles enter the turn lane from opposite directions the first vehicle to enter the lane shall have the right-of-way.



5. Reversible Lanes

Some travel lanes are designed to carry traffic in one direction at certain times and in the opposite direction at other times. These lanes are called "reversible lanes" and are usually marked by double-broken yellow lines. Before you start driving in them, check to see which lanes you can use for the direction of travel at that time. There may be signs posted by the side of the road or overhead. Special lights are also often used.

- A green arrow means you can drive in the lane beneath it.
- A red "X" means you can NOT drive in the lane below.
- A flashing yellow "X" means the lane is only for turning.
- A steady yellow "X" means that the use/direction of the lane is changing and you should move out of it as soon as it is safe to do so.

These type of lanes and control devices are usually found in heavily traveled industrial areas where there is a high volume of rush hour traffic coming in during the morning and going out during the afternoon.

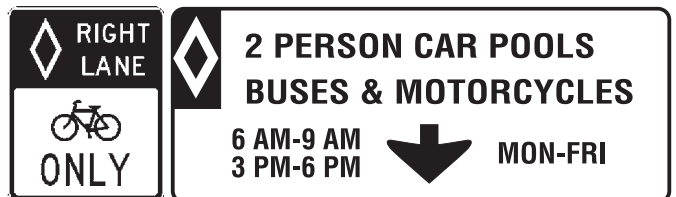
6. Reserved Lanes

On various roadways, one or more lanes may be reserved for special vehicles. Reserved lanes are marked by signs stating that the lane is reserved for special use, and often have

a white diamond posted at the side of the road and/or painted on the pavement surface. Do NOT travel in one of these lanes unless operating the type of vehicle indicated, or unless you must turn across the reserved lane in the next half block distance.



- "Transit" or "buses" means the lane is for bus use only.
- "Bikes" means the lane is reserved for bicycles.
- "HOV" - High Occupancy Vehicle lanes are reserved for car pools and vehicles with more than one person in them. Signs say how many people must be in the vehicle as well as the days and hours to which the reserved use applies. For example, "HOV 2" means there must be at least two people in the vehicle for you to legally drive in that lane.



7. Changing Lanes

Changing lanes on a multi-lane highway or interstate should never be done without thinking and looking. Absent-minded lane changing is extremely dangerous. Common sense, alertness, and courtesy are all essential to your safety and the safety of other drivers. Use the following steps to help you make safe lane changes:

- Pay attention to clearance space ahead and behind your vehicle.
- Check your rearview mirrors.
- Signal your intention to change lanes.
- Look over your shoulder in the direction you will be moving.
- Look behind you to both sides again.
- **CHECK YOUR BLIND SPOTS.** As shown to the right the driver in front cannot see the motorcycle or other car just by checking his mirrors. He would need to physically turn his head and look over his shoulder in each direction to see those vehicles next to him.
- Change lanes gradually and carefully.
- Do not cruise in the blind spots of any vehicles ahead of you.

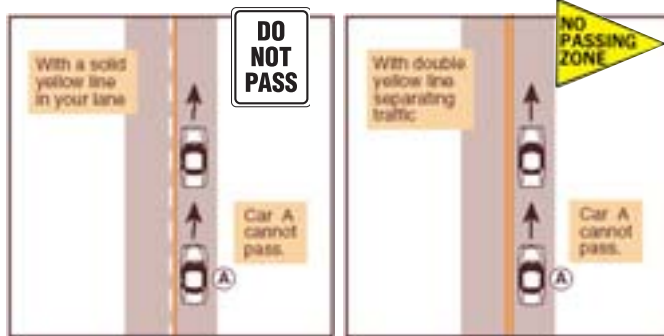


When a driver ahead of you (in your lane or the lane next to you) signals a lane change, slow down and leave space for the change. Do NOT speed up or change lanes yourself until

the other driver has completed his intended movement. Otherwise you could interfere with his lane change and contribute to a dangerous situation or accident.

PASSING OTHER VEHICLES

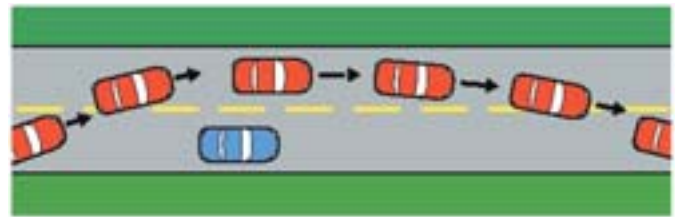
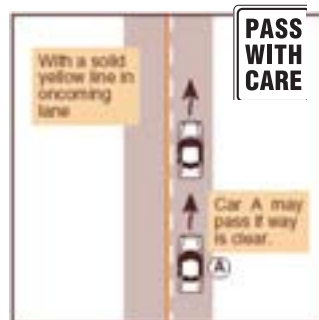
Passing another vehicle is a normal part of driving, but it can be very dangerous. Collisions resulting from improper passing are often fatal since the impact is greater in this type of accident. Before you attempt a pass, be sure you have enough room to complete the maneuver. If you have to cut back to your lane too soon, you risk sideswiping the vehicle you are passing. If you do not cut back to your lane soon enough, you risk a head-on collision.



It is equally important to know when NOT to pass as well as when to pass. The decision of whether or not to pass is influenced by the knowledge, judgment, attitude and behavior of the driver. BE PATIENT. Study and learn the following passing rules well and practice them each time you pass another vehicle.

1. Passing on the Left — requires the following safety precautions:

- Know the speed and acceleration ability of your vehicle, and be able to estimate the speed of the vehicle you are passing as well as that of any oncoming traffic. As a rule, if you see any sign of an oncoming vehicle, it is too close for you to risk a pass. When in doubt, stay in your lane.
- Stay well back of the vehicle you want to pass to allow yourself a better view of the road ahead. Check well ahead for a NO-PASSING ZONE and on-coming vehicles.
- When overtaking and passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction on a two-lane road in the USA, you should pass only to the left of the vehicle.
- Signal you move to the left and check your rearview and side-view mirrors before you change lanes.
- Do NOT swing out across the center line for a look, if you need to do this to see you are either following too closely or attempting to pass in an area where your sight distance is too limited to pass safely.



- Check your blind spot for any vehicle that may be starting a pass around your vehicle.
 - Move to the left (oncoming traffic lane) ONLY when it is safe to do so. Pass on the left at a safe distance and do not return to the right lane until safely clear of the over-taken vehicle. (See diagram above)
 - Complete your pass as soon as possible. When you can see the entire vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror, signal right and return to your lane. Be sure to cancel the signal light so that you are not driving with your right turn signal flashing.
 - As a general rule it is NOT SAFE to pass more than one vehicle at a time, although it is not illegal in Tennessee to pass multiple vehicles. It is recommended that you not even consider passing multiple vehicles unless you:
 - A. are on a straight, level roadway where your vision of oncoming traffic is excellent
 - B. can complete the pass of all vehicles and be safely returned to the right lane before coming within 100 feet of the no passing markings (solid yellow line, signs, etc.) and/or any oncoming vehicles approaching from the opposite direction.
 - Take extra precautions during inclement weather and twilight hours. Some oncoming vehicles may not be easily visible at these times, especially if they aren't using their headlights as required.
 - Whenever possible try to avoid passing at night, unless you are familiar with the roadway on which you are traveling. It is more difficult at night to see where the passing zone ends and if you aren't familiar with the roadway a slight hill/incline or curve in the road ahead could prove deadly.
- ### 2. Passing on the Right:
- The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:
- When the vehicle overtaken has signaled to make or is about to make a left turn. **Never pass on the left of a driver who has signaled a left turn.**
 - Upon a street or highway with unobstructed pavement, not occupied by parked vehicles, and such paved roadway is of sufficient width for two or more lines of moving vehicles in each direction.
 - Upon a one-way street, or upon any roadway on which traffic is restricted to one direction of movement, where the roadway is free from obstruction and such road is of sufficient paved width for two or more lanes of moving vehicles.
 - You may never legally pass on the right by driving off the pavement or main portion of the highway. Use extra care

when you pass on the right; other drivers do not expect to be passed on the right if they are not traveling on a multi-lane roadway.

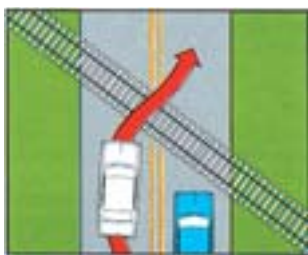
- Do NOT pass on the right using a bike lane or parking lane at any location, nor in the emergency lane within sight of a traffic light or stop sign. This situation often happens at intersections when vehicles are stopped for a red light: *A vehicle attempts to pass on the right and one of the cars ahead starts to make a right turn when the light changes resulting in a crash. The person passing on the right will be “at fault” because the vehicle turning right was properly traveling within the marked lane of traffic.*
- The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle on the right only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. **In no event shall such movement be made by driving off the pavement or main-traveled portion of the roadway.**

3. No Passing: It is not always safe to pass. Make certain the way is clear. Give the proper signal before changing lanes. Tap your horn when necessary to avoid surprising the driver ahead. Avoid cutting in too quickly if you must return to your original lane. Remember you may NOT cross the center line to pass under the following conditions:

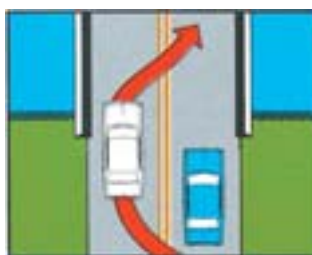
- Do not pass when approaching any roadway intersection or railroad crossing, when approaching any narrow bridge, viaduct or tunnel, or where there is an oncoming car.
- Do not cross the solid yellow line in your lane.
- You should always stay to the right of the center whenever the solid yellow line is on your side of the center lane marking.



Intersections

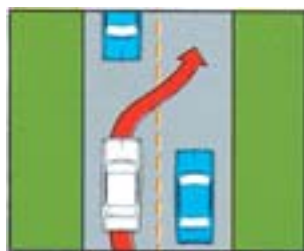


Railroads

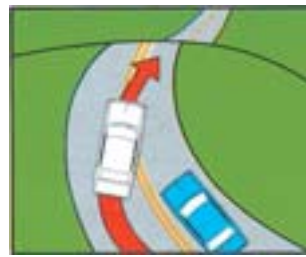


Bridges / Tunnels

- Do not pass unless the pass may be completed without interfering with the safety of the oncoming vehicle and before the solid yellow line reappears in your traffic lane.



Oncoming Traffic



Hills



Curves

- Do not pass a school bus or church bus when the flashing lights are operating and the stop arm is extended.
- Do not pass when approaching a hill or curve.
- Do not pass a car that has stopped for pedestrians in a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Passing in this type of situation is a frequent cause of death to pedestrians, especially if the passing vehicle is traveling at a high rate of speed.

Safety Tip: when stopping for a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, you should stop about 30 feet before the crosswalk so you don't block visibility of the crossing pedestrians to a driver in the other lane(s).

- Do not pass on the right shoulder of the highway. Other drivers will not expect you to be there and may pull off the road or turn right without looking.
- The end of a “no-passing zone” does not mean it is safe to pass. It means there is increased visibility ahead. It is still up to YOU to determine if it is safe to pass after considering all the conditions discussed above.
- The solid yellow line marked on the pavement in a “no-passing zone” indicates that you may NOT cross the centerline to pass. You are allowed to turn across the centerline if you are making a left turn into or coming out of an alley, intersection, private road or driveway while in the “no-passing zone”.
- Do not “weave” in and out of traffic by repeatedly passing on the left, then back to the right and then passing again on the left, etc. Weaving from lane to lane in an attempt to move faster than the flow of traffic is the sign of an immature driver and is extremely dangerous.



4. Being Passed by Another Vehicle: When another driver tries to pass you, there are many chances for a collision. The other driver may cut in too sharply, you may be changing lanes, or the other driver may be forced back into your lane if he/she has misjudged the distance of oncoming traffic. Keep everyone safe - help the other driver pass you safely by:

- Staying in your lane, and moving to the right if being passed on the left.
- Maintaining your speed, DO NOT speed up to keep the other driver from passing.
- Checking oncoming traffic and adjusting your speed to let the other driver move back into the right lane as soon as possible.

- Slowing down if you observe a car approaching from the other direction while you are being passed. By slowing down you will allow the passing driver more space to pull back into the right lane in front of you before meeting the oncoming vehicle.

5. Passing Trucks and Buses

“It amazes me when a car cuts in front of me and then slows down! Don’t they realize I can’t stop an 80,000 pound truck the way they can stop a 3,000 pound car?” This statement is heard often from truck and bus drivers regarding the actions of drivers of passenger vehicles passing them on the highway.

In addition to following the guidelines for passing any vehicle, to safely pass a large truck or bus there are additional rules you must learn:

- Complete your pass as quickly as possible - do not stay alongside the truck or bus. This is a common misunderstanding. Staying beside the truck or bus does NOT “let the driver know you are there”. Instead, it puts you in the driver’s blindspot! If you are traveling alongside a truck or bus and can look over and see any portion of the tractor from the driver/passenger door back to fifth wheel area where the trailer is connected you are most likely in the driver’s blindspot.
- An excellent point to remember is that if YOU can’t see the side mirrors on the truck or bus you are following then HE CAN’T SEE YOU. This also means that all you can see is the back doors of the truck or bus and not a good view of the traffic situations on the road ahead. You are following too closely and greatly increasing your chance of a rear-end collision with the truck or bus.
- Maintain your speed. NEVER pull in front of a truck or bus (or any type of vehicle) and slow down. This takes away the safety cushion of the driver you have just passed and presents a potentially dangerous situation if you must stop suddenly.
- Keep in mind the terrain you’re traveling on when passing. On a level highway, it generally takes longer to pass a truck or bus than a car. On an upgrade, these heavier vehicles often lose speed, making it easier to pass. On a down grade, their momentum will cause them to go faster, so you may need to increase your speed to pass. Remember it is illegal to exceed the speed posted speed limit even when passing other vehicles.
- There is also no need to refrain from passing a truck pulling multiple trailers. Motorists should treat these trucks as they would any other commercial vehicle and follow the same



rules for sharing the road. (See Chapter 14 for more on “Sharing the Road with Trucks”.)

BACKING AND PARKING

1. Backing

In general, never back a vehicle in any travel lane with the exception of backing into a parallel parking space. Drivers do not expect a vehicle to be backing towards them and may not realize it until it is too late. If you must back your vehicle, look carefully and move slowly.



Backing is more difficult for new drivers than traveling forward because the vehicle itself blocks your field of vision, and it’s harder to control speed and direction. You will need a lot of practice to learn to maintain absolute control of the vehicle. Although a small part of the driving tests, backing

is the maneuver that most often causes new drivers to fail their skills test.

- Backing is dangerous because it is hard for you to see behind your car. Here are some rules you should follow whenever you have to back your car:
 - A. Check behind your vehicle BEFORE you get behind the wheel. Children or small objects are hard to see from the driver’s seat.
 - B. Before backing look to the front, both sides and the rear. Place your arm on the back of the seat and turn around so that you can look directly through the rear window. Do not depend solely on your mirrors. Avoid opening the door and sticking your head out to see - this is dangerous.
 - C. Back slowly and gradually. Your car is much harder to control and stop while you are backing. Continue to look to all sides of the vehicle for hazards while backing.
- It is illegal to back into an intersection from a driveway. A driver must take care when backing to see that such movements can be done with reasonable safety and are not interfering with other traffic.
- Backing out of a parking space requires special caution and attention by drivers. You must be aware of the movements of any cars or pedestrians near or approaching your vehicle. Be sure to look both directions before and during the backing maneuver out of the parking space. Be prepared to stop quickly should any hazard appear.
- If you miss your turn or exit, do NOT back up, but go on to the next turn or exit or where you can safely and legally turn around. It is illegal to back up on the interstate.
- Do not stop in the travel lanes for any reason (lost or

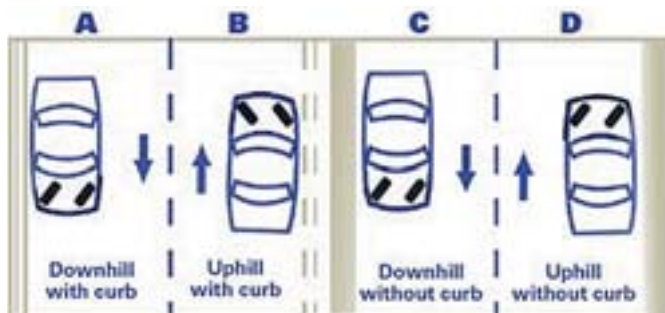
confused directions, vehicle breakdown, or letting out a passenger). Keep moving until you can safely pull your vehicle off the roadway.

2. Parking

Drivers are responsible for making sure that their vehicle is not a hazard when it is parked. Whenever you park, be sure it is in a place that is far enough from any travel lane to avoid interfering with traffic and easily visible to vehicles approaching from either direction.

Routine Parking Regulations: The following are some routine rules regulating parking vehicles that you should become familiar with:

- Always park in a designated area if possible.
- When parking adjacent to a roadway outside of city limits, all four wheels must be off the pavement, if possible. In any event you must ensure that you leave at least 18 feet of road width for other traffic to pass your parked vehicle, and your vehicle must be visible for at least 200 feet in either direction.
- Signs or yellow painted curbs usually mark a **“NO PARKING ZONE”** in cities and towns.
- Double parking is prohibited by law.
- It is against the law to leave the engine running in a parked unattended vehicle.
- Remove ignition keys from parked, unattended vehicle. It is a good safety habit to lock the doors of your vehicle when it is left parked unattended.
- **When parking on a hill follow these rules:**
 - A. On a downhill with a curb: turn the front wheels toward the curb (right) and set the parking brake. If your car rolls it will roll into the curb and not the roadway.
 - B. On an uphill with a curb: turn the front wheels away from curb (left), this way if your car starts to roll back it will roll into the curb and stop, instead of rolling into traffic.
 - C. On a downhill without a curb: turn the front wheels toward the edge of the roadway (right). Again this will prevent the vehicle from rolling into traffic if the brake fails.
 - D. On an uphill without a curb: Turn the front wheels toward the edge of the roadway (right). This will allow your car to roll away from the center of the road in the event the brakes fail.



- A driver must look, signal and yield the right-of-way when coming out of a parking place.
- Always set your parking brake when you park. Leave the vehicle in gear if it has a manual transmission or in “park” if it has an automatic transmission.
- The “hazard”, or four-way flashing directional lights may be displayed during the hours of darkness when a vehicle is disabled or otherwise presents a traffic hazard.

3. No Parking Zones

There are many areas where you cannot park. **It is illegal to park:**

- In front of a public or private driveway.
- Within an intersection.
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk or upon the crosswalk marked area.
- Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway on the same side of the street or on the other side of the street within 75 feet of the fire station driveway.
- Within 30 feet of a traffic signal, stop sign or any other traffic control device.
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.
- On a sidewalk.
- Upon any bridge or within a tunnel.
- In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign or pavement markings indicating the space is reserved for use by a physically handicapped person.
- On the traffic side of another parked vehicle (double parked).
- On the shoulder of any interstate (except for an emergency situation).
- Where official signs prohibit stopping or standing.
- Other parking restrictions may be indicated by painted curbs. A painted curb means that you must follow special rules to park there. The colors on the curbs mean:



WHITE

Stop only long enough to pick up or drop off passengers.

YELLOW

Stop only long enough to load or unload. Stay with your car.

RED

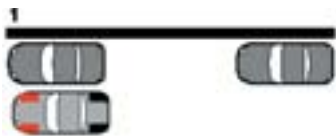
Do not stop, stand or park in this space under any conditions.

4. Parallel Parking

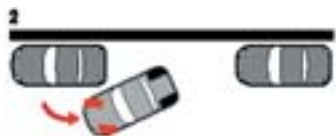
Your ability to judge distances while controlling the speed of your vehicle is the key to completing this parking maneuver. When parallel parking, be sure to continually

check for oncoming traffic conditions. Parallel parking is a true test of the driver's ability to handling "multi-tasking"

STEP 1: Check traffic behind you, signal, stop even with the car in front of the open parallel space you are going to park in. Your rear bumper should be even with the bumper of the other parked car and you should ensure that you do not get your vehicle any closer than 2 feet from the other vehicle.



STEP 2: Turn your head to the right and look over your shoulder at the space you are going to back into, also scan frequently back to the front observing your distance from the other parked car. Begin backing very slowly, turning your steering wheel sharply to the right until your car is at about 45-degree angle with the street. As your front passenger side door passes the rear bumper of the other car quickly straighten your front wheels and slowly continue to back straight.



STEP 3: When your front bumper is even with the other car's back bumper, turn your wheels sharply and rapidly to the left as far as necessary. It is extremely important that you remember to continually check the space around your vehicle while making this maneuver. You need to be especially aware of traffic on the road and the distances between your vehicle and the other parked cars. This task requires



STEP 4: Turn your steering wheel sharply to the right and slowly pull forward toward the curb. Continue adjusting slowly and gradually until your car is centered in the parking space.



Upon completion of your parallel parking maneuver your vehicle should be no further away from the curb than 18 inches. As you prepared to exit the vehicle be sure to check the traffic before you open the driver side door. Get out of the vehicle on the curb side if you can. If you have to use the street side, wait till any traffic has passed, get out quickly and shut the door as soon as you can. Move to the curb or sidewalk quickly for your safety.

5. Emergency Parking (Disabled Vehicles)

In the event it becomes necessary for you to leave your vehicle parked on a highway or street, follow these rules:

- Park your vehicle with all four wheels off the traveled portion of the highway if possible. Otherwise pull onto the shoulder of the road as far away from traffic as possible. If there is a curb, pull as close to the curb as possible.
- If you cannot move the vehicle off the highway raise the hood or tie a handkerchief on the left door handle or antenna to warn other motorists.
- Turn on your car's emergency flasher lights. Set your parking brake, shift into park or leave the vehicle in gear,

and turn off the engine. Lock your vehicle

- A stopped car on the Interstate (even on the shoulder) is extremely dangerous. Do not stop on an Interstate highway except for an emergency.
- Walking on the Interstate is both illegal and dangerous. Except for extreme emergency cases, you should remain in your broken down vehicle until a State Trooper, other police officer, emergency service vehicle, or a good Samaritan stops to offer assistance.

6. Handicap Parking Spaces

The handicap parking symbol, which appears on reserved parking signs, placards and license plates, is the international symbol of access for persons with physical disability. Parking spaces marked with this symbol are only to be used by vehicles displaying a valid placard or license plate with this symbol, and only when transporting the person who was issued the placard or plate.

It is illegal for anyone else to park in these spaces. If you improperly park in these designated spaces you will be committing a misdemeanor punishable by a \$100 dollar fine and your vehicle could be subject to being towed.

7. Parking Meters

Many public parking spaces are regulated by coin-fed parking meters. Meter regulations are usually in effect during posted days and hours. In most areas, a maximum time limit for parking in those spaces is also posted. If you exceed the limit or fail to pay the meter fee, you may be issued a parking ticket and your vehicle may be towed.

8. Angle Parking

Angle parking is often used in parking lots, shopping centers, and sometimes at curbs.

When you enter an angle parking space on your right:

- Watch for traffic both ahead and behind.
- Signal and begin slowing down.
- Make sure the rear of your car will clear the parked cars.
- Steer sharply into the parking space, then straighten the wheels, centering your car in the parking space.
- Shift to Park or reverse if driving a standard transmission vehicle and apply the parking brake.

Before backing out of an angle parking space:

- Walk around to make sure nothing is in your way.
- Move your car back slowly because it is hard to see oncoming traffic. Be sure traffic is clear in the lane where you are backing.
- Maintain a cautious speed so that you can yield if necessary to pedestrians or oncoming vehicles.
- When you can see past the tops of cars parked next to you, stop and look again. Look back and to each side for other drivers.
- Remember that the front of your car will swing opposite to the direction of your turn.
- Back slowly while turning until your left front wheel passes the rear bumper of the car parked on the left.
- Straighten the wheels as your car comes back into the lane for traffic.